



December 6, 2019

Dear [UTILITY ELECTED OFFICIAL NAME/SUPERINTENDENT/OPERATOR]:

In 2018, the State convened the Water Infrastructure Task Force (“Task Force”) to study drinking water and wastewater utility needs and best practices in Indiana. One recommendation of the Task Force was for the State to assist utilities with long term planning by establishing Water Infrastructure Study Areas for the purpose of studying supply and demand, drought preparedness, infrastructure needs, and opportunities for utility collaboration within a region. The Task Force also recommended that participation by utilities should be required.

As a result of these recommendations, the 2019 Indiana General Assembly enacted [Senate Enrolled Act 4](#) (“SEA 4”) requiring the Indiana Finance Authority (“IFA”) to conduct regional meetings throughout the state to enable drinking water and wastewater utilities to work together to address long term needs. SEA 4 also requires drinking water and wastewater utilities to report their participation in the meetings to the IFA. The IFA would like to be a resource to utilities in satisfying this new requirement. This letter serves to notify you of these new obligations and the IFA resources available for assisting utilities in meeting them.

Starting in 2020, the IFA will host annual, regional meetings throughout the state for the purpose of regional, long-term planning. During these meetings, drinking water and wastewater utilities and other interested parties can, for example, identify regional drinking water and wastewater priorities, discuss topics of regional interest, and investigate avenues of possible collaboration. For the purpose of these meetings, “regional, long-term planning” is defined as a group of localized utilities working together to describe and address future needs. The IFA’s goal in conducting these meetings is to help organize utility-led planning groups that focus on regional, long-term issues.

Many utilities are already participating in regional planning via formal or informal arrangements. If your utility already participates in a utility-led, regional planning group, please let us know. We do not want to “recreate the wheel”; rather we would like to partner with you and help bolster your efforts. Your utility can meet the SEA 4 requirement if the IFA participates in an existing utility-led regional planning meeting that your utility attends.

The legislation requires utilities to report on their participation in the IFA regional planning meetings by March 1, 2021, and every March 1 of each odd-numbered year after 2021. Utilities may participate in any IFA regional planning meeting held during 2020 to meet the 2021 reporting requirement. Every IFA regional planning meeting will include time for utilities to report on participation while at the meeting. Please note: participation in an IFA regional planning meeting is required in order to qualify for assistance from the State Revolving Fund (“SRF”) Loan Program.

Not all 2020 meeting dates have been established. The known dates are:

DATE	HOST	LOCATION
January 29 2020; 10:15 am	Held in conjunction with the Indiana AWWA's Annual Conference	Indianapolis, IN
February 21, 2020; 9:00-11:00 am; sign-in starts at 8:30 am	Held in conjunction with a meeting of the Southern Indiana Water Professionals Association (registration is not required)	Clark County REMC, 7810 IN-60 #1859, Sellersburg, IN 47172
March 2020	Held in conjunction with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water's Spring Conference	French Lick, IN
April 2020	Held in conjunction with the Indiana Rural Water Association's Spring Conference	Indianapolis, IN
July 2020	Held in conjunction with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water's Leadership Summit	Bloomington, IN
August 2020	Held in conjunction with the Indiana Water Environment Association's Annual Conference	Fort Wayne, IN
October 2020	Held in conjunction with the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water's Fall Conference	Fort Wayne, IN
December 2020	Held in conjunction with the Indiana Rural Water Association's Water Institute	French Lick, IN

Please check our [website](#) for additional dates as they are added. Attendees will be eligible for CEUs.

At some meetings there will be no cost to attend. Other meetings may be held in conjunction with an existing conference that does require registration and payment to attend.

SEA 4 also requires the IFA to identify "Study Areas" boundaries. One purpose of the initial regional planning meetings will be to get input from utilities as to how this should be accomplished. The IFA will establish appropriate regional boundaries with common synergies once input from the 2020 meetings has been gathered and reviewed.

Once utility-led regional planning groups are organized, the IFA will be able to help the group identify, study, and address needs. For instance, the IFA has begun a series of studies, specific to regions of the State, to identify water infrastructure needs and solutions. Existing studies include:

- The [Southeastern Indiana Water Supply Study](#), completed in 2018
- The [Central Indiana Water Study](#), which is ongoing

If you have questions about any of these initiatives, please contact Sarah Hudson at 317-232-2812 or sahudson@ifa.in.gov.

Sincerely,
James P. McGoff
Director of Environmental Programs